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ROBERT J. DOUCHIS DIES

Robert James (Dauksas) Douchis, aged 63 years, co-founder of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association and numismatic co-author, passed away in Elkton Maryland on Wednesday, April 13, 2005 following a long battle with prostate cancer. Born in Boston Massachusetts on August 17, 1941, Douchis was an ardent collector of Lithuanian medieval coins, many of which were rare. Douchis financed the publication of and co-authored with Eugenijus Ivanauskas a number of numismatic books - 'Coins of Lithuania 1387-1707' published in 1999, 'Lietuvos Monetų Kalybos Istorija 1495-1707' (History of Minting Lithuanian Coins 1495-1707) published in 2002 and 'Pocket Catalogue of Lithuanian Coins 1386-1938' published in 2004.

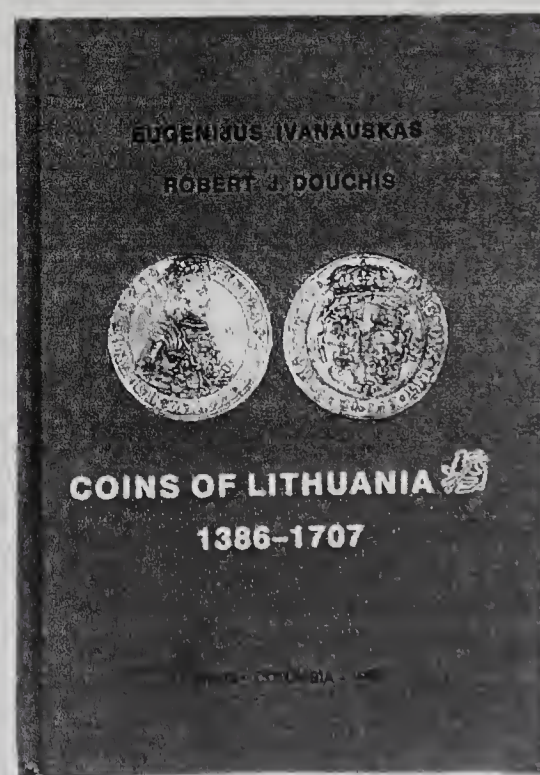
In 1978, together with Frank Passic, he co-founded the Lithuanian Numismatic Association and served as its first Director from 1978 to 1995. He was awarded the Order of Lithuanian Numismatics in 2003 by the Director of LNA Aleksandras Radžius on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the LNA for his year of dedicated work in Lithuanian numismatics.

Mr. Douchis graduated from Northeastern University with a degree in electrical engineering. For 31 years he served as an engineering manager with the Federal Communications Commission before retiring in 1995. In September of 2002, he was awarded dual Lithuanian citizenship.

Bob is survived by daughters Donna Richter with husband Mark, Terri VanDerzee with husband Rodney, and Kim Douchis. He will also be missed by several grandchildren. Private services were arranged by R.T. Foard Funeral Home and were held on April 17. The Lithuanian Numismatic Association was represented by the current LNA Director Aleksandras Radžius and Bob's long-time friend Henry L. Gaidis, both of whom presented eulogies which are printed below. Bob's remains will be interred in a family plot near Boston at a future date. Donations in memory of Robert J. Douchis may be made to the Lithuanian Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 22696, Baltimore, MD 21203.



ROBERT J. DOUCHIS
(1941-2005)



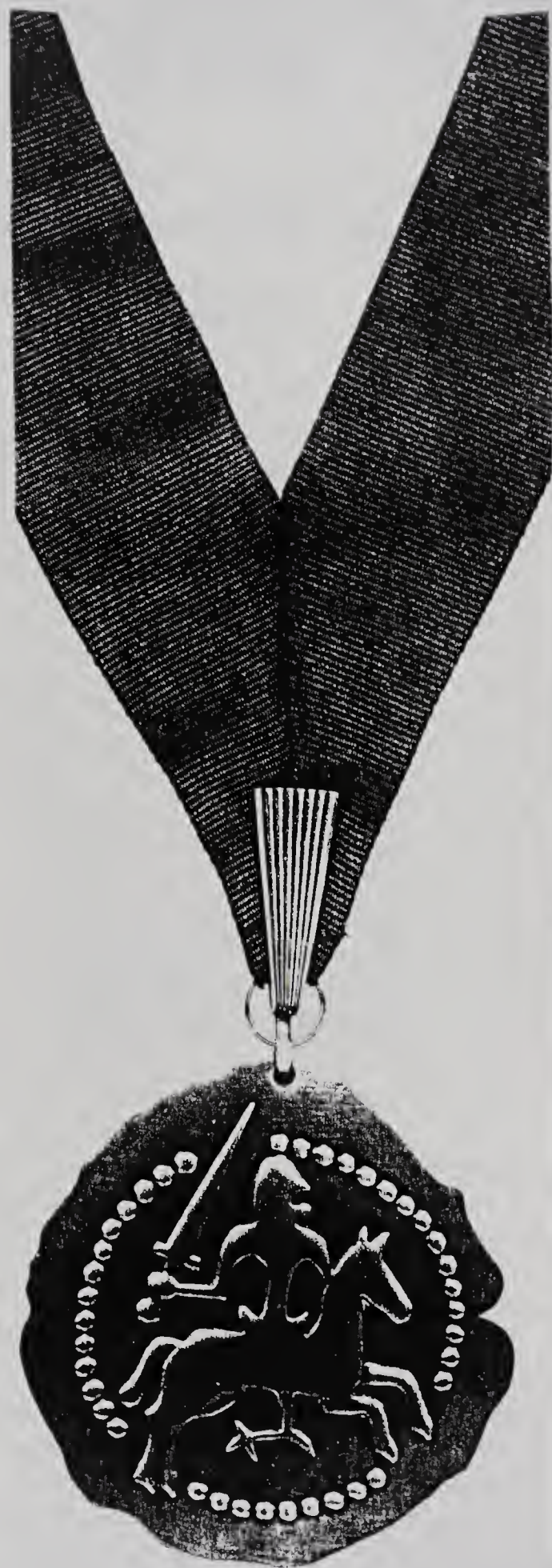
COINS OF LITHUANIA
published in 1999

EULOGY of Henry L. Gaidis

I first met Bob Douchis around 1976-77 when I returned to Maryland from California and a 10 year duty tour for the FBI. As I recall, at about that time I wrote an article on Lithuanian Firearms for 'Gun Report' magazine and had received a letter concerning the article from Vincent Alones of New York. Later, Vince informed me about the New York Stamp Club and the newly formed Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Because of my contacts with Vince, I became a member of the LNA. Bob and I soon became close friends and Bob talked me and Vince into writing articles for 'The Knight' about Lithuanian military medals and decorations. During those early years, Vince and his wife and Frank Passic and his mother would periodically visit Baltimore and I would meet them at LNA meetings held in conjunction with coin shows.

When I first met Bob, he was working for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as supervisor of their local installation in Ellicott City, Maryland. Besides our mutual interest in all things Lithuanian, we also had backgrounds in law enforcement. Though not widely known, the FCC cooperates with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies on criminal matters. I recall talking to Bob about how he periodically cooperated with police by intercepting communications between drug smugglers bring shipments into the Chesapeake Bay. These smugglers were frequently members of a ship's crew and dropped narcotics off the ship into the water for retrieval by other smugglers in small fast boats. Such an operation would require radio communications and it was Bob and the FCC that facilitated the tracking and arresting of the smugglers.

I later learned that Bob started collecting Lithuanian coins in his younger days. At the time we met, Bob was collecting banknotes of the pre-war Republic of Lithuania (1918-1940). Bob had an outstanding Lithuanian banknote collection consisting not only of a complete set of Lithuanian banknotes, but a large number of rare bank specimen notes. Like most collectors, Bob was very proud of his collection and I recall traveling with him to several Lithuanian-American ethnic gatherings where Bob would display his banknotes and talked about their history. Some time during the 1980's, Bob's passion turned from Lithuanian banknotes to ancient medieval Lithuanian coins. Over the next twenty years, Bob accumulated probably the best individually owned collection of such coins in the United States. In the last few years, Bob



Order of Lithuanian Numismatics
awarded in 2003

began to specialize in ancient Lithuanian silver bars (kapas) and surely had acquired the largest collection of them in the United States. For about five years, Bob and I would drive on Friday evenings for a traditional Lithuanian dinner at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. Bob even became a member of the Lithuanian Hall Association, thus completing his ties to the Baltimore Lithuanian community. At these Friday night get-togethers, I, Bob, Alex Radžius (the present Director of the LNA) and maybe a few other close friends would often have heated and passionate discussions about historical data that should be used in interpreting medieval Lithuanian numismatic coins.

Bob remained totally committed to the pursuit of all things Lithuanian and pertaining to Lithuania. Though many of our interests were similar, my collecting interest is more in the area of Lithuanian medals, orders, and militaria. I had the good fortune of being able to travel with Bob to Lithuania on two occasions. Though we generally went our own ways upon arrival, we always managed to get together some time during the trip to compare notes. I was always amazed to hear Bob talk about all of the museums he has visited, collectors he met, collections he had seen, and his latest addition he had picked up for his collection. While in Lithuania, Bob never passed up the opportunity to find more information on his family roots by visiting archives and cemeteries where family members were buried.

Bob was especially proud that the government of Lithuania awarded him citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania for his work in Lithuanian numismatics. I can still clearly recall Bob visiting with me and a group of friends at the Baltimore Lithuanian Hall and proudly showing off and talking about his Lithuanian passport.

Through Bob, I met Eugenijus Ivanauskas, another LNA member, living in Lithuania. Over the years, Bob had developed an extremely close relationship with Eugenijus and they collaborated in the publishing of three books on Lithuanian coins. Their first two books, entitled 'Coins of Lithuania 1386-1707', Vilnius-Columbia 1999, and 'Lietuvos Monetų Kalybos Istorija 1495-1769', Vilnius 2002, have been reviewed in past issues of the LNA's 'The Knight' and have since become reference material. The existence of their third book, or booklet, is not widely known as it was published more as a working guide for them to carry while at coin shows. Still, Bob shared the developed information and had a few copies of this small 108-page booklet entitled "Pocket Catalogue of Lithuanian Coins", Kaunas, 2004 printed. He presented copies as gifts to friends. I am proud to say Bob was kind enough to autograph my copy.

Though Bob's passion lay in all things Lithuanian, he was the devoted father to his three daughters. Bob never ceased to brag about their successes. His daughter Donna married a career U.S. Air Force officer and has traveled the world. Though Bob never served in the military, he would regularly brag about his son-in-law's contribution to the defense of our country. Daughter Terry and her husband are owners of an outstanding seafood restaurant in Port Deposit, Maryland. I recall on one occasion Bob dragging me to Port Deposit to have cream of crab soup after his daughter won the competition for the best crab soup in Maryland. Daughter Kim is working toward a Ph.D in psychology. Bob even joked about Kim some day being able to psychoanalyze all of his mental problems. Though Bob periodically would talk about his grandchildren, I did not have the opportunity to meet them until his funeral. After seeing them, I have no doubts that they, like Bob, will grow up to make great contributions to our nation. Though Bob was proud of his collecting, his family was the center of his world.

In closing, I would just like to add that I miss Bob and will be thinking about his many achievements for years to come. I also have no doubt that generations of collectors will turn to his publications as reference materials.

EULOGY of Aleksandras Radžius

I did not know Bob as long or as well as Hank did. But, for that all too short time that I did have to know him, I admit that I did not get to know him as well I might have, as well I could have or as well I should have!

Life is entirely too short! It is amazing how our everyday concerns and toils limit us in what we really need to, and should, be doing with our lives. And so I did not get to know Bob or his family well at all. Although Bob had spoken of his daughters, before today I had only heard Terri's voice on the phone on a few occasions and only today, did I get to associate her voice with her face. And Donna and Kim, only today did I meet them for the first time.

But, from what little I was able to get to know of Bob, there was one aspect that really impressed me and which I would like to share with you - and that was his great love for his Lithuanian heritage. You already know of his long-standing achievements collecting Lithuanian numismatics, his books and his labors and successes at finding that piece of Lithuanian soil that his forefathers called "home". But let me tell you of two interactions with Bob that I had which are but small illustrations of his deep love for Lithuania, his Lithuanian roots and all things Lithuanian.

In the course of my numismatic research, I needed to borrow from Bob his copy of a German language book by Gumowski. After I got home, I opened the book to the segment where Gumowski deals with medieval Lithuanian coins. To my surprise, Bob had penciled in above each German word the English translation!

Now Bob was an engineer. Engineers are noted for their mathematical and mechanical training and skills, not for their verbal or linguistic abilities or training. Having attended the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in Baltimore and subsequently working two years as an apprentice engineer before going off to get degrees in biology and pursuing a career in biological research, I can safely say that the word on the street, but especially among engineers themselves, is that engineers are across-the-board known for their lack of verbal and linguistic skills. I'm sure you've all heard the comment "These instructions must have been written by an engineer!" I'm sure Bob never studied German or any other foreign language, but, with a dictionary in hand he poured over pages and pages of German just to learn what Gumowski wrote about medieval Lithuanian coins. If any of you are familiar with the peculiarities of the constructions of German words and sentences, or are bilingual and know that going from one language to another is not as easy as it might seem at first glance, this was no simple or straightforward undertaking on Bob's part. But there he was, doing it from a cold start, piece by piece, till he persevered. And from the penciled-in English I read and what little German I know, it was clear to me that Bob succeeded very well in learning what Gumowski wrote.

Years later, when he and I drove to the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington D.C. for him to get his Lithuanian passport and be sworn in as a Lithuanian citizen, his eyes and voice were aglow as he told me every detail of what it took for him to become also a Lithuanian citizen. And when we were at the embassy, I could just feel his enthusiasm and excitement as he filled out the required paperwork and finally was sworn in by the embassador while I snapped photographs. And as though that were not enough, Ambassador Usackas presented Bob with a table medal with the current version of the Lithuanian Vytis. Truly, in those hours of that day, I witnessed Bob on cloud nine as I never previously had, or subsequently would again witness.

Bob's deep love of all that is Lithuanian and the hard work he repeatedly expended in fostering this love is what I truly did get to know about Bob very well indeed! And that is what I want each of you to also truly and fully know about Bob.

KM-95 1993 POPE JOHN PAUL II COMMEMORATIVE 10 LITŲ COIN.

5.

1993 10 Litų Papal Visit Commemorative

KM-95

Weight: 13.15 gr.

Diameter: 28.7 mm.

Thickness: 2.7 mm.

Metal content: .750 copper, .250 nickel

Mintage: 10,000.

Distributed: 5,000

Mintmark: LMK

Designers: Petras Garška (Vytis side)

Leonas Pivoriūnas (Pope side)

Edge: Lettered: TIKĖJIMAS * MEILĖ *
VILTIS *

With the death of Pope John Paul II on April 2, 2005, we are reminded about the one commemorative coin issued by the Lithuanian Mint honoring this extraordinary Pontiff.

The year 1993 was an historic one for Lithuania. On June 25 the Lithuanian litas was restored as the official currency of the country, following 50 years of an occupational monetary system. Coins and banknotes were issued bearing a Vytis emblem similar to that used before World War II.

The new Lithuanian Mint had officially begun minting coins in October, 1992, and began its operations with the minting of 1, 2, and 5 centas denominations. As time went on, the minting of other denominations were added as new equipment was installed.

On July 16, 1993, the Bank of Lithuania issued its first modern commemorative coin. It was a 10 litų (KM-94) to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the tragic flight of Darius and Girėnas. That coin was the first to feature the new modern-day version of the Vytis emblem, and was designed by the Mint's designer, Petras Garška. Coins were packaged in a square clear plastic snap-type holder, with a green hard plastic insert to hold the coin.

Just two months later, on September 2, 1993, the Bank issued its 2nd commemorative coin, with the same type of packaging. Again a 10 litų, this one bore the same Vytis design by Garška on the obverse, but the reverse had a special theme.



This 10 litų coin was issued to coincide with the historic pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II to Lithuania from September 4 to 8, 1993. His visit led him to several Lithuanian sites, including the Cathedral of Vilnius, the Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai, and the Saints Peter and Paul Church in Kaunas.

Years of Soviet occupation had prevented the Pope from traveling to Lithuania beforehand to experience first-hand these Lithuanian

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...)

6. 1993 POPE JOHN PAUL II COMMEMORATIVE 10 LITU COIN.

(Continued from page 3....)

landmarks. It is no secret that the mother of Pope John Paul II, Emelia Kaczorowska, was of Lithuanian descent. Unfortunately, she died in 1929 when Karol Wojtyla was only 9 years old.

The obverse of the coin features the new Lithuanian Vytis emblem in the center. The inscription below the Vytis reads "10 LITU LIETUVA." This obverse design by Garška is identical to the Darius-Girėnas issue of two months earlier, with two major exceptions our readers might like to make note of:

1) The Darius-Girėnas coin had the "LMK" (Lietuvos Monetų Kalykla/Lithuanian Coin Mint) mintmark to the viewers right of the horse's hind legs. No such mintmark appears in that location on the Papal coin (more about this later).

2) The rim of the Darius-Girėnas coin is quite plain, but the Papal coin bears a dotted border around the rim. The dots apparently were added later to the original Garška model, as I have noticed that the dots on the Vytis side are somewhat smaller than the dots that appear on the Pope side.

After taking a photograph of the Vytis side of the Papal coin and viewing it, this writer noticed an anomaly our readers might like to know about. I have not counted the number of "dots" around the rim, but at the very top, I noticed that the two top dots are "jammed together." It looks like the spacing was off at this point when "both sides" "met" at the top as the engraver was going "around the circle" adding the dots. This is an artistic "quirk" that apparently was developed by whomever added the dots to this design. Readers: check your "dots" on this coin. Was it an individual die that was engraved with this mis-alignment, or are they all like that meaning it happened on the master die? You should be able to tell with a 10x magnifying loupe.

It should also be noted that dots or denticles are usually not added to the rims in modern coin designs, due to metal flow and striking issues in the technicalities of the minting process. They commonly appeared however on coins before World War II, such as on Lithuania's pre-War coinage. Thus the addition of the dots helps give this coin some added artistic beauty to what would have been a very plain obverse.

The reverse of the coin (note: American collectors traditionally view the side bearing the portrait as the obverse, such as on the Lincoln cent or the Jefferson nickel) bears the image of the Pontiff facing right, with his hands folded in prayer. The top legend reads "JONAS PAULIUS II." On the right to the left of the name in smaller lettering appears the words "LIUDYKIME KRISTU," meaning, "Let Us be Witnesses for Christ." The date 1993 appears horizontally in Roman numerals to the right of the letter "O" in "Jonas:" "MCMXCIII."

This side also contains a dotted rim, but the dots are larger, more pronounced and artistically appealing than those that appeared on the Vytis side. These apparently were included as part of the original design, while the dots on the Vytis side would have been added later off the Darius-Girėnas design to try and bring consistency--or it could have been for minting technical purposes regarding metal flow and die pressure.

This side of the coin was designed by artist Leonas Pivoriūnas. At the 8 o'clock position in stylized writing appears his monogram "Pivor."

Now for another interesting observation. As mentioned earlier, on the Darius-Girėnas commemorative, the LMK mintmark had appeared on the Vytis side to the right of the horse's hind legs. That is noticeable absent on the Papal coin in that location.

On this coin, the LMK mintmark has been transferred to the Papal image side, just to the right and in front of the Pope's praying hands! Perhaps officials thought it was better for the Mint to be blessed by the Pope, rather than to be kicked by the hind feet of a horse! Or perhaps they outright needed the Pope's blessing. This new overt placement of the mintmark occurred only on this coin. In subsequent commemorative coins the mintmark appears in its normal position by the Vytis emblem. Hmmm....

The edge of the coin is inscribed "TIKĖJIMAS * MEILĖ * VILTIS *" meaning "Faith, Hope, Love." This religious theme is taken from I Corinthians Chapter 13 in the Bible, verse 13. This religious text is in stark contrast to the years of oppressive atheism that Lithuania had to endure during the Soviet occupation. This coin

was a reminder to the Lithuanian nation of their religious heritage.

There was controversy among collectors about this coin as well as the Darius-Girėnas 10 litų coin. When the litas was reissued in June of 1993, there was no 10 litų coin. Rather, a 10 litų note was issued. This was in contrast to the pre-war situation when both coins and notes of 10 litų denomination were circulated. The 1993 10 litų coins are noticeably smaller in diameter than their 1936 or 1938 counterparts.

The 1993 dated commemorative coins were the first coins issued by the Mint of Lithuania. The coins have a mirror surface and the quality was the best possible using the equipment available at the time. A bone of contention among collectors was the outlandish 100 litų price that the Bank of Lithuania was charging for these coins. Hoping to capitalize on the rising world numismatic market of the post-Soviet era, the price of 100 litų was set. At the time, the exchange rate of the litas had not been officially set and for a time the exchange rate was 3 litai for one U.S. dollar. With the then-current exchange rate, a Darius-Girėnas or a Papal visit commemorative coin cost around US\$30. Later the value of the litas was pegged to the U.S. dollar at a rate of 4 litai to one U.S. dollar. The coins could now be purchased for around US \$25.

Collectors across Lithuania complained about these high prices for an ordinary-looking uncirculated-quality common metal cupro-nickel coins that have an exchange value of US\$3 at best. As a result, the policy was changed in 1994 with the issuance of the Song Festival 10 litų commemorative proof quality coin (KM-96). The price was lowered to around 25 litai. For consistency however, the prices for the Darius-Girėnas and the Papal visit coins were not lowered and remained at 100 litai. Later, the Bank of Lithuania issued much larger diameter commemorative silver proof coins at issue prices of 90 litai.

The two UNC 1993 cupro-nickel coins naturally seemed "out of step" with comparative pricing of other Lithuanian commemorative coins. The Darius-Girėnas coin was withdrawn from sale on July 15, 1998 with 4,500 having been sold. The Papal visit coin was withdrawn from sale on September 1, 1998 with 5,000 having been sold. It is assumed that the remaining unsold coins were destroyed.

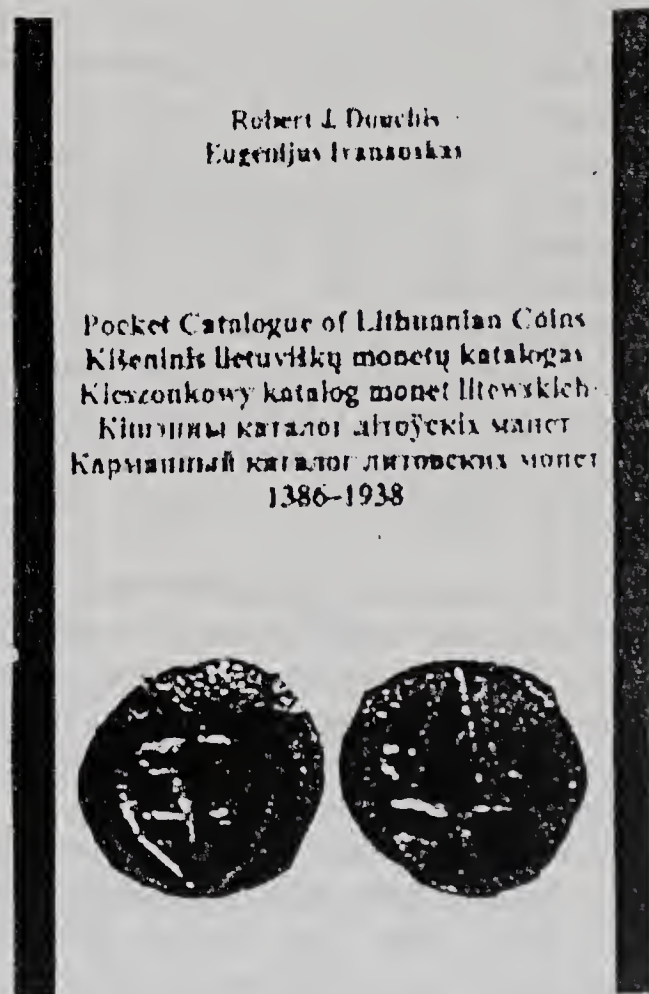
In retrospect, it is too bad that the Papal visit and the Darius-Girėnas coins were not minted in silver proof, or at least were issued as circulating

commemoratives. These were the early years for the Lithuanian mint and policies were still being formulated and new equipment was being acquired.

Current 'trends' in the Krause-Mishler 'Standard Catalog of World Coins' gives this coin a value of \$45 in UNC, while the Darius-Girėnas coin lists at \$50. With the death of John Paul II however, it appears that more collectors will want to acquire this lone Papal coin issued by Lithuania. Watch for the prices to rise on this one in the marketplace.

DOUCHIS BOOKS COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

The books co-authored by Robert Douchis have already become collector's items. With limited printing, after the initial distribution, remaining copies were quietly sold individually. The family has no extra copies as Bob sold his inventory. Especially scarce is the 2004 published 'Pocket Catalogue of Lithuanian Coins 1386-1938', which to our knowledge, was sold out even in Lithuania. The editor of The Knight has located a few copies that had been purchased by a dealer in Poland.



Also, the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture Gift Shop in Chicago (773) 582-6500 has only a couple copies of 'Coins of Lithuania 1386-1707' in stock. It is cataloged under Ivanauskas's name.

UNISSUED 1991 500 & 1,000 LITAS BANKNOTES TO BE OFFERED TO COLLECTORS!!



This unissued P-50b 1994 100 litų banknote bearing the signatures of Finance minister E. Stasys Vilkelis and Bank chairman Kazys Ratkevičius will be offered to collectors.

In what is seen as a gracious action of consideration to the collecting community, the Directors of the Bank of Lithuania decided to make available to collectors the unissued 1991 500 (Pick-51), 1,000 (Pick-52) and 1994 100 (Pick-50b) litų banknotes which were printed by the United States Banknote Corporation. 20,000 of each denomination will be retained for that purpose. This comes with the decision that the rest of these notes will be destroyed.

The January 14, 2005 issue of *Kauno Diena* reported that the Bank of Lithuania has finally won its case against the aforementioned firm. The Bank of Lithuania was awarded \$2.274 million U.S. dollars (about 6 million litai) for poor quality banknotes which were printed but never released into circulation.

"We've signed an agreement with the manufacturers of the banknotes, it was ratified by the court, we received \$2,274,000 in compensation and we have no other claims against them. Now that the litigation is over, we decided to destroy these banknotes and make room in the safes for the euros," said Reinoldijus Šarkinas, CEO of the Bank of Lithuania.

The Bank of Lithuania in 1997 had submitted to the Paris Court of Arbitration a claim against the US company for the poor quality 100, 500 and 1,000 litai notes and requested compensation. In November of 1994 the Bank of Lithuania won not only in this court but also in the US Bankruptcy and Circuit Court.

The US company which printed the banknotes between 1990 and 1993 turned to the International Arbitration Court in the spring of 1997, after the Bank of Lithuania refused to sign an agreement for the printing of the rest of the litas banknotes.

However, the Arbitration Court dismissed the claim of the US Banknote Company and began to study the claim of the Bank of Lithuania for breach of contract and poor quality notes.

Between 1990 and 1993, the US Banknote Company printed six denominations - 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 litai bank-notes. All the bank-notes were of poor quality. In 1993, the American company acknowledged the claims of Lithuania and took it upon itself to reprint some of the denominations free of charge and to pay 1 million litai compensation. The Bank of Lithuania, for its part, promised that for three years it would not have another company print Lithuanian banknotes. However, in 1993 the Bank of Lithuania signed a contract with the British firm Thomas de la Rue.

The 1991 issue 500 and 1,000 litai banknotes did not have the required safeguards against counterfeiting and were not issued into circulation, but are still secured in the safes of the Bank of Lithuania. Too few 1994 issue 100 litai banknotes were produced to replace all the 1991 poor quality notes.

At press time we do not have information about ordering these notes from the Bank of Lithuania, but we will let our LNA members know when we have that information.

Inflation safeguards from euro introduction being prepared

From 'Kauno Diena', February 23, 2005

The regulations being prepared by the Bank of Lithuania for the introduction of the euro will contain provisions which will prevent merchants from using the introduction of the euro as a pretense for raising prices. These regulations will be presented to the Lithuanian Parliament in May.

"All conversions from litas to euro in prices, salaries, pensions will be made in favor of the consumer", promised R. Šarkinas. "Even though we cannot prevent merchants from raising prices, the introduction of the euro will not be the reason for price increases." Further, he stated that methods are being considered which will prevent price increases, but he did not elaborate. But, he did say that price increases will be determined by the public's willingness to pay the increased prices.

Gintanas Nausėda, a banking advisor, said that price increases can be combated not only with economic politics but also with public relations. "The people expect increased prices, thus we can expect an element of panic on the eve of 2007 as people buy more goods and services. This behavior will result in price increases," said G. Nausėda. "Some prices will increase with the introduction of the euro, this happened in Western Europe, but only temporarily. In 2 to 4 months free market forces solved the problem." However, he said the government can take steps to safeguard the public from increased prices. "The most effective way would be to display prices in litai and in euros for a period of time before the euro is introduced. In this way the people will

not only get used to the new money, but will also be able to see if prices had

increased," said G. Nausėda. However, G. Nausėda said that displaying the prices in litai and euros might be ineffective if merchants raise their prices before the euro is introduced.

Ignas Staškevičius, CEO of the largest chain in Lithuania 'VP Market', said that prices will be displayed in litai and euros for 6 months prior to the introduction of the euro, unless the government or legislation mandates a longer period. "To do this earlier is pointless as no one will pay attention, and in implementing the regulations we will incur costs which we will have to pass on to the consumer," said I. Staškevičius. The 'Iki' chain has been displaying prices in litai and in euros since the autumn of 2003.

The euro will be introduced in Lithuania on January 1, 2007. However, for two weeks after that date, small businesses will be able to accept payments in litai. "Payments in two currencies will be a hardship for small business," said R. Šarkinas.

For two weeks after the euro was introduced in the Netherlands, their currency, the gulden, remained legal tender. "In preparing the regulations for the introduction of the euro, all issues will be addressed except the date for its introduction," said R. Šarkinas. Further, he said that the European Council, on evaluating Lithuania's preparations for joining the Euro Zone, may grant it permission no earlier than the summer of 2006.



**LIETUVOS BANKAS
BANK OF LITHUANIA
CASH DEPARTMENT**



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**ON DECLARING THE 50 LITAS COMMEMORATIVE COIN DEDICATED TO KERNAVĖ
(FROM THE SERIES "HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS OF LITHUANIA")
LEGAL TENDER AND ISSUING THE COIN**

7 March 2005 No. 10.48.-1002-579
Vilnius

We hereby announce that, following the decision of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania, a new 50 litas commemorative coin of the Republic of Lithuania dedicated to Kernavė (from the series "Historical and Architectural Monuments of Lithuania") was launched on 15 March 2005.

The 50 Litas coin was made from silver (Ag 925), quality proof, diameter 38.61 mm, weight 28.28 g. The coin has a mirror surface with mat relief. The mintage of the coin is 2 000 pieces.

The obverse of the coin features the ancient Lithuanian coin of the end of XIV century, in the centre of which *Vytis*, the emblem of the Grand Duke and of the State, is displayed. At the top runs the inscription LIETUVA in the shape of a semi-circle, and, at the bottom, 50 LITU. The mintmark of the Lithuanian Mint is inserted on the left and the inscription 2005 on the right.

The reverse of the coin features the castle hills of Kernavė – the political, administrative and defence centre of Lithuania in the 13–14th centuries. The inscription KERNAVĖ runs at the top and UNESCO PASAULIO PAVELDAS (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE) at the bottom.

The edge of the coin bears an inscription: ISTORIJOS IR ARCHITEKTŪROS PAMINKLAI (Historical and Architectural Monuments).

The coin was designed by the artist Giedrius Paulauskis.

The coins were minted at the Lithuanian Mint.

The silver commemorative coin can be obtained from the cash office of the Bank of Lithuania in Vilnius (2 Totorių St) and at the branches of the Bank of Lithuania in Kaunas (25 Maironio St) and Klaipėda (16 Naujoji Uosto St).

The price of the 50 litas coin is LTL 90 (boxed) and LTL 75 (without the box). Discounts on larger orders are available.

For further information please see the website of the Bank of Lithuania www.lb.lt.

Enclosed please find leaflets with descriptions of the coin.

Yours faithfully,

Bronislovas Degutis
Deputy Director
Head of Currency Production Divisions

Contact person: Audronė Gruodytė, tel. +370 5 2680 316, fax +370 5 2680 314



**LIETUVOS BANKAS
BANK OF LITHUANIA
CASH DEPARTMENT**



ON DECLARING THE 50 LITAS COMMEMORATIVE COIN TO MARK THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF LITHUANIA LEGAL TENDER AND ISSUING THE COIN

**9 May 2005 No. 10.48.-1002-1079
Vilnius**

We hereby announce that, following the decision of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania, a new 50 litas commemorative coin of the Republic of Lithuania to mark the 150th anniversary of the National Museum of Lithuania is launched on 11 May 2005.

The 50 litas coin was made from silver (Ag 925), quality proof, diameter 38.61 mm, weight 28.28 g. The coin has a mirror surface with mat relief. The mintage of the coin is 1,500 pieces.

The obverse of the coin features the Lithuanian coins of the XIV-XVI centuries containing the most significant heraldic signs of the state of Lithuania – the symbol of the state emblem *Vytis*, the double cross and the *Gediminaičių stulpai* (Columns of Gediminas) – are displayed. At the top runs the inscription LIETUVA in a semi-circle, and, at the bottom, 2005 and 50 LITŲ. The mintmark of the Lithuanian Mint is inserted above the denomination number.

The reverse of the coin displays the image of St Michael the Archangel with a trumpet, which is surrounded by the inscription LIETUVOS NACIONALINIS MUZIEJUS 150 (NATIONAL MUSEUM OF LITHUANIA 150).

The edge of the coin bears an inscription: PRO PUBLICO BONO.

The coin was designed by the artist Antanas Žukauskas.

The coins were minted at the Lithuanian Mint.

The silver commemorative coin can be obtained from the cash office of the Bank of Lithuania in Vilnius (Totorių g. 2) and at the branches of the Bank of Lithuania in Kaunas (Maironio g. 25) and Klaipėda (Naujoji Uosto g. 16).

The price of the 50 litas coin is LTL 90 (in a display box) (EUR 26.07) and LTL 75 (without the box) (EUR 21.73).

Please find attached illustrations of this coin.

For further information please see the website of the Bank of Lithuania www.lb.lt.

Enclosed please find in a separate cover leaflets with descriptions of the coin.

Yours faithfully,
/signed/

Bronislovas Degutis
Deputy Director
Head of Currency Production Divisions

Contact person: Audronė Gruodytė, tel. +370 5 2680 316, fax +370 5 2680 314

Plaster model for Lithuanian euros certified

The 2005 February 25 issue of 'Kauno Diena' reports that the Directors of the Bank of Lithuania have certified the national, obverse side of Lithuanian euro coins as proposed by Antanas Žukauskas, a sculptor from Vilnius. The opinion of the Coin Development and Production Committee of the Bank of Lithuania and that of its consultants is that the plaster model is well designed and is suited for making test strikes.

The competition for the national side of the Lithuanian euros had 54 entries. Three types of different models had to be submitted: the first model was for the 1, 2 and 5 euro cent coins; the second was for 10, 20, and 50 euro cents; and the

third was for the 1, and 2 euro coins. Elements required in the entry were: a modified version of the national arms, the Vytis, with 12 stars surrounding it, 'Lietuva', '2007' and the mint mark of the Mint of Lithuania were to be on the plaster model.

The Directors of the Bank of Lithuania reviewed the entries submitted and made their decision last November.

Every country using euro coins has the right to depict a national design on the obverse. Generally, it's a famous person, the national arms or a design characteristic of the country. The reverse is the same on all euro coins.

Book on 20th century Lithuanian militaria published

An excellent book on Lithuanian militaria has been published. Entitled 'Lietuvos karių uniformos ir lengvieji ginklai XX amžiuje', it is authored by Jonas Vaičenonis. It is of a large format, 8 1/2 x 11 inches and of 262 pages and covers uniforms, weapons, and military formations of the Lithuania armed forces from the post WWI War of Independence, first independence period, WWII, the Partisan War and the armed forces of the current Lithuania Republic.

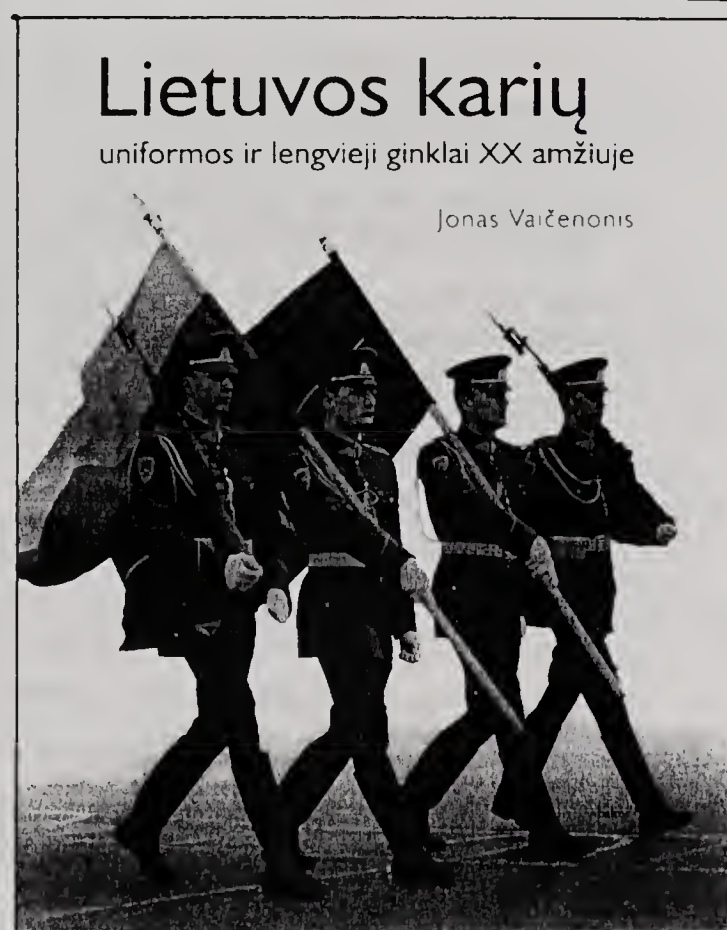
The author has a PhD degree and is currently working for the Lithuanian military and the Vytautas the Great War Museum in Kaunas. Anyone interested in obtaining the book may e-mail the author at: jonas_valcenonis@yahoo.com.

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NOTE: This issue concludes Volume 27. Volume 28 will begin with the September-October 2005 issue.

OVER THE PAST NUMBER OF YEARS COSTS FOR PUBLICATION OF 'THE KNIGHT' HAVE STEADILY INCREASED, BUT OUR DUES HAVE NOT! FREEWILL CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE HELPED! THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED, BUT REGRETFULLY, WE NEED TO RAISE THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES TO \$25 U.S.